

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

714/744 P STREET

P.O. BOX 942732

SACRAMENTO, CA 94234-7320

(916) 322-1478



June 1, 1993

CMSP Letter: 93-8

TO: All CMSP County Welfare Directors

SUBJECT: CMSP Card Production Problem

We have been informed by the Department of Health Services Mail Unit that approximately 245 County Medical Services Program (CMSP) cards, valid for June 1993, have been mishandled and erroneously directed to wrong addresses. We were unable to isolate either the names of the specific individuals or their counties of residence.

This is to request that you alert the appropriate persons in your county of this problem, so that requests for replacement CMSP cards may be processed as soon as possible. Since a stuffer notice regarding CMSP benefits was included with the June 1993 CMSP card mailing (see attachment 1), please insure that a copy of the stuffer is given with each replacement card you produce. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Al Cooper of the CMSP Unit at (916) 322-1615.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jim Martinez for'.

Jim Martinez, Chief  
County Medical Services Program

Enclosure

cc: Al Cooper  
Office of County Health Services  
County Medical Services Program  
714 P Street, Room 523  
Sacramento, CA 95814

CMSP Contact Persons

CMSP STUFFER DISTRIBUTED WITH JUNE 1993 CMSP CARDS

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES  
COUNTY MEDICAL SERVICES PROGRAM

CERTAIN PRESCRIPTIONS MAY REQUIRE PRIOR APPROVAL  
EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 1993

Effective June 1, 1993, the County Medical Services Program (CMSP) is changing the method in which some prescribed medications are paid. The CMSP uses the State Medi-Cal requirements for the dispensing and payment of drugs, as follows: drug companies must provide extra rebates to the Medi-Cal program to help reduce costs; drugs from those companies which refuse to provide these extra rebates will require prior approval; drugs used to treat cancer and AIDS will not need prior approval; and, five other drugs (cromolyn sodium, digoxin, divalproex sodium, pyridostigmine and pyrimethamine) are also exempt from prior approval.

If you are currently taking a drug which will require prior approval effective June 1, 1993, and your physician continues to prescribe that medication, you may continue to receive it without obtaining prior approval. The Department is implementing a telephone system for your pharmacist to use to confirm if you are on continuing drug therapy. You are entitled to a fair hearing regarding this change, if it affects your medications. You should also consult with your doctor to see if there should be any change in your medications.

June 1993

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5/12/93